

Post Falls Plumbing Board Meeting

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Transcript Prepared By:



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1 Nielsen: All right. We'll get started. I appreciate you guys
2 coming. I know 2:30 in the afternoon isn't the best,
3 but I tell everybody they save the best for last
4 'cause we've had building, HVAC, electrical, and now
5 it's our turn, so. My name is John Nielsen. I'm the
6 Plumbing Program Manager for the Division of
7 Occupational and Professional Licenses which most of
8 you know used to be the Division of Building Safety.

9
10 Why we got the name changed is the governor took 11
11 self-governing agencies and put them under one
12 umbrella which is Occupational and Professional
13 Licenses. So we're going through a big process right
14 now or at least the leadership is. We're still kind
15 of, you know, waiting to see how it all pans out but
16 so far so good. Um, today we are recording because
17 we're going to do transcriptions of these meetings so
18 it has public record. So if you have a comment or
19 something to say, I appreciate you coming up here.

20
21 This is for you guys to give me an, you know, industry
22 feedback because what went down was in 2020 Governor
23 Little did an Executive Order 2020-01 which became
24 known as the Zero-Based Regulations Executive Order.
25 And what that does is he took and he mandated that all



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agencies be on a five-year cycle for IDAPA Rules and when we go through this process we will repeal and replace those rules. So the point of these meetings are to get industry's thoughts on what isn't life safety but costs a lot of money or is, you know, no benefit to industry or the consumer.

And it could be anything from licensing to permitting to code amendments, and the code amendments are what I've handed you. Those are current amendments. The purple I was just sitting in my office in John's world and I thought, you know what, these might good to -- you know, easy to get rid of. Again, we're looking to reduce barriers, get people into the trades, not throw away licensure. So if anybody's heard those rumors, we're not out here touting get rid of journeymen, apprentices, and everything else.

I will throw out some ideas mainly on the apprentice side that we can discuss and, you know, kick back and forth to see where it goes. But when we do bring in these rules we have to, um, determine -- we do a retrospective analysis, and we have to determine whether the benefits of the rule intended to achieve are being realized, whether those benefits justify the



1 cost of the rule, and whether there are less
2 restrictive alternatives to accomplish the benefits.
3 So that's just like three out of six questions they
4 ask. And there literally is on Department of
5 Financial -- or DFM, yeah, Financial Management's
6 office is a form to fill out as we go through these
7 rules and explain, you know, how does this proposed
8 rule compare to other states? We got Washington,
9 Oregon, Nevada, Utah, the surrounding states plus
10 South Dakota and Alaska.

11
12 So this process, this is just the beginning of about a
13 year and a half process. So anything we talk about
14 today you won't wake up tomorrow and we'll be
15 enforcing some weird rule that we've talked about. We
16 do this. We gather the information from you guys. In
17 2022 we'll put all that information into a packet and
18 present it to the board, the Plumbing Board. Through
19 2022, probably at the board meetings, you know, we
20 have to have so many negotiated rulemaking. They'll
21 notice it up.

22
23 You guys can send in comments. You don't have to wait
24 until then. My card is over there. If you think of
25 something, email me. Email is best 'cause then I got

1 it on -- you know, I can print it out and give it to
2 the powers to be. They'll go through that process.
3 They'll kick it back and forth. Then it goes to the
4 governor's office, and they'll look at it. And then
5 once it gets past them it will go to the 2023
6 legislature. So we got time. You would not see any
7 rule changes until spring of 2023 at the earliest.
8 And again, it doesn't mean what you see is proposed
9 may not make -- you know, may add, may take away, who
10 knows what, you know, but it's all open for
11 discussion.

12
13 So before I get going, is there any questions, you
14 know, about the new structure, anything like that?
15 All right.

16
17 So what I gave you today again is the world according
18 to John, and as we go through these rules -- and we
19 won't go by one by one. There's 50 amendments plus
20 all the subs. I just hit some. What they also look
21 at when we're looking at this process I don't -- has
22 anybody heard of the Red Tape Reduction Act? It was
23 what -- it was the executive order before Zero-Based
24 and what the governor ordered was go through, take out
25 any unnecessary verbiage, words, I mean actual word



1 count on IDAPA Rules 'cause he had a stack of papers
2 this tall. After we were done, you know, it was half
3 and they're like check out all these regulations we
4 got rid of.

5
6 Regulations may be but, you know, word count. So just
7 as an idea, if we got rid of my highlighted sections
8 there, the way it sits there's 2,836 words, 50 rules,
9 20 subsections. They also look for restrictive words
10 like must, may not, and required, things that say, you
11 know, you guys must go this route on whatever it is
12 here. If we took out my highlighted parts, we'd be
13 down to 1,721 words, 37 rules, 11 subsections, and I
14 have removed 12 rules, eight subsections, 1,070 words,
15 33 restrictive words. They're taking all that into
16 consideration on top of reducing barriers. So just an
17 idea how all this is, you know, played out.

18
19 So with that, as you look through I'll just kind of
20 get the conversation rolling. The first one here
21 testing of systems, does anybody feel that it should
22 be the state's job to witness your test on sewer -- or
23 not just sewers and waters but your rough-ins?
24 Anybody? Feel free to come on up, for or against.
25 Again, we want anybody's opinion.



1 Gray: Yeah. Jesse Gray, Local 44. Uh, I'm, I'm for having
2 the testing in place. Um, I think it's a big part of
3 our job, um, as, as mechanics and specialty mechanics,
4 you know, to provide a, a system that's, uh, worthy to
5 be covered, um, at the end of your, you know, job.

6 Nielsen: So let me ask you a question.

7 Gray: Yeah.

8 Nielsen: Would you be okay with leaving in the words, you know,
9 system must be tested but we don't have to witness.
10 That you guys can self-verify that test.

11 Gray: Uh, that's, that's a tricky question because I mean it
12 can get pretty construed from there. You're, you're
13 saying that, uh, I could put a test on and, and say --
14 call you and say hey it's good. Is that essentially
15 what you're saying?

16 Nielsen: That or I mean we do, um -- what's the word -- vents,
17 the concentric, you know, you guys can test those,
18 leave a piece of tape saying, you know, here's the
19 license number, permit number, sign it, and we take
20 that you guys verified that test, something along
21 those lines. And again, this is 30,000-foot level. I
22 don't have all the answers for what I'm kicking out of
23 here.

24 Gray: Yeah.

25 Nielsen: But again, I know we run into a lot of jobs that are

1 two hours away. You guys throw a test and pray we get
2 there, you know, especially in the winters for that
3 test to go down where you can be like okay
4 everything's good. Let us know one way -- you know,
5 we can figure out the details, but is that a
6 possibility in your mind?

7 Gray: Yeah. No, I know there are those situations and I
8 think that, you know, can be talked to through the,
9 uh, um, through the inspector, you know, the guy
10 having authority. Um, I would -- I don't know if I'd
11 leave that open for just anybody to write off.

12 Nielsen: Okay.

13 Gray: So those are my thoughts.

14 Nielsen: All right.

15 Ward: I'm glad you touched on that because that was one of
16 the things I wanted to talk about. Uh, Kyle Ward,
17 Harpos Plumbing. Um, so I mean that was one of the
18 things on my list to discuss was that if, you know, we
19 do have a lot of jobs that are really far out, um,
20 especially in the winter you put an air test on and,
21 you know, there's certain inspectors in this local
22 city jurisdictions around here if you're half a pound
23 light, you don't pass that test. Um, that's a huge
24 cost to me and my business to send somebody back.
25 potentially have to have them babysit a test.

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Um, I work a lot with Dan and Chuck in the Northern counties here and, you know, we, we have a relationship. We have a trust. Um, I realize that that trust may not go with everybody and the law of the land. I mean there's always going to be a guy out there that's maybe going to try and cheat the system and I'm sure, you know, we kinda know who those guys are and stuff like that that aren't really reputable.

Um, but that being said, I, I do think that if you do have a journeyman on the job, uh, DBS's, you know, goal is to make sure that that system meets life and health safety issues, right, code issues. If we have a journeyman onsite that self-certifies that test, in all reality they're not going to call these guys and a homeowner is not going to call these guys and say I got a leak. They're going to call me, you know, and I'm going to be responsible. The liability falls on me and my insurance to go back and repair said leak. But if it meets code, we certified that it held the test for the required amount of time. Um, that may not be a bad idea, you know, given, given those conditions.



1 So, um, you know, of course there's always that gray
2 area like I said with the guys that, you know, aren't
3 going to be forthright with the inspectors in terms of
4 did you test it. They maybe don't put a test on at
5 all. Well kind of shame on them at that point if
6 there is a problem, but again, it falls back kind of
7 on them, you know.

8 Nielsen: All right.

9 Ward: So just a thought.

10 Nielsen: No, I appreciate it. Thanks. Anybody else?

11 Papadraya: I'm Tom Papadraya (ph). I was a retired plumber
12 from 44. But, uh, recently I helped this guy out at,
13 uh, uh, Osburn, you know, and it's way out there, you
14 know, a ways. And he said he hired some plumber, you
15 know, and the guy came in and put San-T's on his back
16 for waste and stuff like that and I said oh man. He
17 can run the vent like just a -- it wasn't even above
18 the flood level room of the sink. So I think, uh, we
19 have either send pictures or something to verify that
20 they, you know, they did rough it in right and, uh --

21 Nielsen: And along those lines, I mean there would not -- we're
22 still going to go out and do an inspection, a rough-
23 in.

24 Papadraya: Oh.

25 Nielsen: It's just, you know, like I said, I know when I was

1 out in the field, you know, that test sometimes can be
2 a nightmare whether it holds or not because --

3 Papadraya: Yeah.

4 Nielsen: -- you got some travel time in there. This would not
5 eliminate inspections.

6 Papadraya: Oh, okay.

7 Nielsen: It's just the test verification.

8 Papadraya: Yeah, I just wanted to bring that up.

9 Nielsen: No, I appreciate that. Yeah. I just wanted to make
10 clear that, you know, short of all you guys and
11 everybody else in the industry saying we don't want
12 inspections which I know, you know, is not going to
13 happen, that would not happen. Anybody else on that
14 one?

15
16 All right. I'll throw out, you know, number three,
17 excavation. I was in this position when we wrote this
18 rule. And you know, as you read it, it's just there
19 to get down to the, you know, minute details of what
20 you can and can't do. But if you open up the codebook
21 to that section it says don't throw in frozen dirt,
22 don't throw in rocks, don't throw in bodies, you know.
23 It -- we just added stuff. We dumbed it down to the
24 dumbest denominator and, you know, as part of this
25 deregulation, you know, I'm trying to get away from

1 this. And so does anybody, you know, have an issue,
2 again, with this one or any of them?

3

4 The one little catch I will throw in here or not throw
5 in here but let you in on is number 12 on the second
6 page. So obviously in rule when we put -- delete this
7 section, it takes that section out of the codebook.
8 So if we deleted this rule, it actually puts seismic
9 restraints back into the code. How does it -- people
10 feel about seismic restraints?

11 Male 1: Yeah, I think you need it.

12 Nielsen: Come on up, please. I know. We're going to get some
13 walking in here.

14 Male 1: Well yeah, I think you need that kind of stuff because
15 lately there's been so many earthquakes and, you know,
16 just weather happening and tornados and that sort of
17 stuff. Not like we get them all the time, but there
18 are going to be earthquakes coming, and it's going to
19 get worse I think. But when you strap your water
20 heaters up I think you need it, you know, and it
21 should be inspected and made sure it's done right.

22 Nielsen: So in your opinion, is seismic strapping, would you
23 consider that life safety?

24 Male 1: Yeah.

25 Nielsen: Okay.

1 Male 1: Yeah, I think so.

2 Nielsen: Anybody else? I see everybody pretty much nodding
3 their head yeah they agree pretty much.

4

5 Let's see here. Another one that I get the most
6 complaints about are cleanouts. And when we do -- did
7 go to the 2015, as everybody knows, the cleanouts
8 became, you know, five feet from the crawl, above the
9 floor bases stack. And honestly, if you look in the
10 codebook, a lot of this, um, in number 35, are
11 requirements that the Plumbing Board put into play.
12 The code itself doesn't say you have to have a bases
13 stack above the floor. I mean anybody that does
14 construc- -- or, uh, commercial jobs you're going to
15 have one above the floor because at least first floor
16 'cause it's going to be slabbed 99 percent of the
17 time, so. But in residential, you know, the above the
18 urinals was added. So does anybody like the way it
19 currently reads as far as cleanouts or would you like
20 to see some changes?

21

22 Um, up in Sandpoint they threw out maybe get rid of
23 some of the, you know, above the floor stuff but call
24 a water closet a cleanout. Does anybody have any
25 thoughts on any of that? Nobody? That's good. Fair

1 warning. There's no time limit on this and so, you
2 know, we can go through this and you might get out
3 early, you know, and hit happy hour or something.

4 Ward: Are any of you guys service plumbers, done service
5 plumbing? Um, yeah. I'm sure Cold Seal for sure.
6 Um, I've done all different kinds of plumbing. I mean
7 realistically like, you know, any time that I've seen
8 a service guy come out or done it myself I mean I'm
9 usually not looking for a cleanout. I'm usually
10 looking to pull that toilet and just get in and get
11 out and take care of the problem.

12
13 I mean and, and if we're talking, you know, we got to
14 pull somebody's cleanout above the floor in their
15 living room, I mean yeah it's a lot more convenient
16 but I've never seen a guy take his machine down into a
17 crawlspace, you know. But, but then again, you don't
18 necessarily want to pull Mr. Homeowner's cleanout when
19 it's full in their living room, you know, either. So
20 I think there's a, there's a fine line there between
21 the convenience and what reality is in the field is
22 that we're going to, we're going to pop a toilet and
23 you're going to snake it through there. You know,
24 however we want to word that if it's going to be, you
25 know, we use that as a cleanout or what.



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But I mean sometimes it can be a little excessive in

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the way that a lot of times there's stuff getting

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buried anyway, you know. Um, stuff gets sheet rocked

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over. Stuff gets buried behind cabinets and then, you

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know, realistically a service plumber is going to pull

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that trap or he's going to pull that toilet to, to

8

snake that out, um, you know, I mean so --

9

Nielsen: So you feel like if we, you know, worded something

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like the water closet but then also took and went back

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to say 20 feet from the crawlspace.

12

Ward: Yeah. I mean yes and no. I mean there -- you know, a

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lot of the stuff the end of the runs to me in my

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personal opinion makes sense. I mean if you've got

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something there that's above the floor, um, that's

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behind a toilet or adjacent to a toilet, you know,

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that's going to be a convenient spot without having

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to, you know, tear something apart like that.

19

20

But, uh, you know, I mean realistically how you're

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going to go about that I mean if you -- I know we're

22

talking basic cleanouts at stacks and things like

23

that, but I'm not really out to pull a cleanout in a

24

finished living room with somebody's furniture there

25

when that think is chock full. I'm going to look for

1 a different alternative that's going to be a less
2 messy alternative to repair that, so.

3 Nielsen: So would you be good with say get rid of the distance
4 from the crawl but your end of the line a basis stack,
5 you know, like it used to be it could be in the crawl
6 --

7 Ward: Right. We used --

8 Nielsen: -- just come down 90 or right there --

9 Ward: Yep.

10 Nielsen: -- is a cleanout.

11 Ward: Yeah. And that was a realistic approach I think at
12 the time. I mean if you did have it backed up,
13 you're, you're going to have a mess in the crawl but
14 you're not going to have a mess above the subfloor,
15 so.

16 Nielsen: Okay.

17 Ward: Um, I, I think that, uh, you know, I think that over
18 the years I've been up here for -- doing plumbing for
19 21 years now and my dad was a plumbing contractor here
20 before and I had seen kind of the, the rules ramp up
21 and a lot of it for a good reason. Um, but we seen
22 some of the stuff that we go okay well does that
23 really make sense and are we trying to make our jobs
24 harder? You know, I don't want to take anything away
25 from the trade or anybody else in the room. I mean

1 we're in the business to go out there and make money,
2 and, and this is what we do. Um, but at the same time
3 a practical approach to those rules I think is, is a
4 reasonable approach, you know. So you know, cleanouts
5 included, so.

6 Nielsen: I appreciate it.

7 Ward: Okay.

8 Nielsen: Anybody else. Anybody all for the way it is written?
9 Another one that came up yesterday was air admittance
10 valves. I mean if you look at number 46, that's where
11 the AVs are. Ninety percent of that rule is telling
12 you what you can't do with it. Does anybody feel one
13 way or the other? You know, should we be able to use
14 them more, less, in commercial, residential only?
15 Does anybody care? I mean 'cause if --

16 Ward: Would we be able to add in line a peninsula on a
17 residential application?

18 Nielsen: Again, come on up so we get it on -- but you --

19 Ward: I know. I'm just going to -- I'm going to take a
20 permanent position up here. A peninsula is something
21 that, you know, Dan and I have run into a lot 'cause
22 he's usually pretty savvy on catching that. You know,
23 we are on an island obviously allowed but, uh, on a
24 peninsula, a similar application, but we've had to end
25 up running a loop vent and a foot vent for that. Um,

1 you know, if we can add that in, I can attest that,
2 uh, I have tried that just out of curiosity to vent an
3 entire, you know, bathroom group with one of those
4 just to check it out, and it does not really work, at
5 least with the studor brand vents. Um, you know, it
6 will air lock on you every time. Um, no matter what
7 studor tells you, you can put one of their great big
8 ones on and there's nothing really that's going to fix
9 that other than a traditional vent that's going to
10 make that system breathe well.

11
12 Um, but the application of a, of a peninsula, just a
13 cabinet that actually touches a wall that comes around
14 the corner I think is a reasonable addition to that
15 that, you know, we -- still within one fixture, you
16 know, for a kitchen sink but without having the, kind
17 of the extra of running the foot vent and stuff, so.

18 Nielsen: And yes, that is -- to answer your question, that is
19 an option. Again, we can amend -- you know, 'cause
20 just like if we take out the F -- let's see here -- so
21 F, G, H, you know, again this is just spelling out
22 what you can't do. But if we show the legislature,
23 hey look, we're taking some stuff out but we want to
24 add this one little sentence in that says, you know,
25 island and peninsula sinks, I don't think there's any

1 issues there. So yes, everything is open and, and --
2 Ward: And that's the only thing I ran into. I would never
3 recommend using that as, you know, venting an entire
4 bathroom group at all, but, um, that's a, that's a
5 reasonable thing. I mean the only thing separating
6 that from becoming an island is that one cabinet, you
7 know.

8 Nielsen: Sure. No, I know.

9 Ward: So we're kind of splitting hairs at that point in my
10 opinion but --

11 Nielsen: And as an inspector, it's an easy call. Oh, it's not
12 an island.

13 Ward: Right, exactly. Yep. And I have had to change a
14 couple out where I've missed it and not really thought
15 about it 'cause I go oh it's an island but it's not
16 really a technical island, so.

17 Nielsen: Okay. Nope. Thanks. Does anybody have anything else
18 on any of these rules that you like, don't like, would
19 like to see amended?

20 Gray: Number 16, the beverage dispenser, what -- I guess
21 maybe I don't know what you would place in there. I
22 mean it talks about a, a backflow preventer.

23 Nielsen: So don't quote me on this one since I don't have my
24 codebook in front of me, but I believe it used to read
25 in the UPC -- they changed some things and on a

1 carbonated pop dispenser you could have the dual, the
2 dual checks with a vent, and the board didn't like
3 that and they wanted a more, um, safe backflow on it.
4 And we always had our piece, so they just got rid of
5 that and then put our piece in.

6
7 There's one more on code here before I move on. One
8 I've always questioned was 48, trap seal protection,
9 because you have some companies out there sure seal.
10 There's like a cow's tongue. And they do advertise
11 that it can replace a trap. I'm not advocating for
12 replacing the trap. But as far as a trap primer goes,
13 we did an addition in Meridian -- when did we do that,
14 Mike? I know you're probably not listening but 10
15 years ago. Something like that. We kind of
16 rearranged the office in Meridian, and I threw some
17 sure seals in the two bathrooms we added, made sure
18 they didn't turn on the trap primer, and there's never
19 been any issue.

20
21 Right now even though it says in the rule "or other
22 approved trap seal protection devices," nobody's ever
23 approved any. So is that some kind of an option maybe
24 you guys would like to see? Food for thought. Again,
25 we don't have to have any answers today. Make sure

1 you get my card and email me whatever comes along. So
2 unless anybody has anything else on the plumbing code
3 amendments, I'll move onto the next topic.

4
5 So there's been some talk a year ago I believe we
6 changed the HVAC permitting schedule and went from
7 square footage back to permits -- or yeah, base permit
8 fee and counting fixtures basically, appliances in
9 their world. Do you guys like the way the current
10 residential permit schedule is or would you like to
11 see it changed back or some other combination? Okay.
12 I'm assuming everybody's good with the commercial side
13 of it too, the percentage. I don't hear near as much
14 about the commercial side, and realistically I think
15 everybody is pretty much -- one -- here's one
16 question.

17
18 On the residential, do you by -- okay. By code
19 apartments are not residential, and on our form there
20 it's four plexes (ph) and then it, you know, \$130 plus
21 65 a unit and this and that. The definition of
22 residential is a one or two single family dwelling
23 unit, a duplex. Would it be easier just to slide the
24 apartments -- what's, what's not a single and what's
25 not a duplex into a commercial? Any thoughts on that

1 one?

2 Gray: Basically you're saying a four plex would slide into
3 that commercial?

4 Nielsen: Yes. And by definition of the building code, it's a
5 commercial job even though -- this one guy told me
6 it's four houses stacked on top or tied together
7 around. Personally it causes a lot of heartache out
8 in the field for our inspectors and I think for a lot
9 of contractors because, you know, they won't just
10 issue you one permit. You know, you get one permit
11 and then a bunch of cross references. If it was
12 commercial, then we go out there, even if it was 160-
13 unit place, one permit my inspectors are just going to
14 have to take notes and you. I need units A, B, C, D
15 rough-in. And we keep track of it all. Does that
16 strike you as good, bad, indifferent? All right. I'm
17 going to take that as a maybe work on it, John.

18
19 Apprentice registration, basically plumbing has
20 constant on-the-job supervision, meaning a journeyman
21 on the job. HVAC just says supervised. Electrical is
22 a ratio. How do you guys feel about that when it
23 comes to supervision? Do you feel that DOPL should be
24 regulating you guys on who you could or, you know,
25 could or can't, should or shouldn't send out to a job

1 without, you know, a journeyman with them? Is it too
2 restrictive on your part I mean with today's
3 technology, phones and Facetime and everything? How
4 do you guys feel about direct supervision? Come on
5 up.

6 Krels: Joe Krels. I'm the training director for Local 44.
7 Um, I think supervision is imperative. Apprentices
8 can't train apprentices. Um, even with Facetime,
9 that's what, that's what apprentices are there for is
10 to learn from the master of their craft. It's hard --
11 what if a guy sends out two apprentices and they're
12 working together and neither one of them really knows
13 what they're doing? Um, I don't think it's
14 advantageous for the bottom end cost for the
15 contractor that might do it. Most contractors,
16 reputable contractors probably wouldn't do that. But
17 I think it just opens the door to allow that kind of
18 cheap labor on a house. I can run five jobs from a
19 phone and have, um, multiple apprentices building
20 houses and not really learning their craft.

21 Ward: Uh, I, I see that as a good point. Um, the other
22 thing I want to add to that I, I disagree in a way is
23 that, um, with today's technology we do have so many
24 different means of communicating with these guys. I
25 mean case in point. I've got a guy that worked in

1 Washington for several years, and but he comes over to
2 Idaho and he's still an apprentice, right. Um, you
3 know, fully capable person but I have to be with him
4 all the time. And the issue with that is that if that
5 guy gets to his third or fourth year of apprentice
6 school and he can't do a trim on his own, he can't do
7 basic layout on a rough-in or start that job on his
8 own, I mean we failed that person. If he can't -- if
9 I can't send him out to do a water heater on his own
10 in his third or fourth year, I mean come on. You
11 know, that's -- it's, it's a little ridiculous at that
12 point.

13
14 But I believe that, you know, there are individuals
15 out there but by their second year, at least in
16 residential plumbing, they are fully capable of laying
17 out and doing that job on their own with very little
18 supervision, if any supervision. Um, and those jobs
19 will pass all the time, every time. I mean, um, I, I
20 think that there's certain reason -- you know, there's
21 certain abilities that people will have to do that.
22 Um, and again, there's those guys that they, they need
23 supervision all the way through, um, you know, so.

24 Nielsen: And I guess that's my question is should it be -- as
25 an external force the contractor shouldn't it be on

1 you guys to know who you can and can't send out --

2 Ward: Right.

3 Nielsen: -- without, you know, somebody actually there keeping
4 an eye on him?

5 Ward: Right.

6 Nielsen: Or you know, I mean I know some people in this room
7 that in their third and fourth years were out doing
8 stuff. And you're right there are those, and there
9 are those that aren't. But no matter which one you
10 have and you don't have a journeyman with him right
11 now you could get a civil penalty.

12 Ward: Right. And the, the hard little bit of issue that we
13 have here is that in Washington, you know, we're,
14 we're close proximity. We work on both sides of the
15 line. Um, you know, they have a two-year residential
16 journeyman. So a two-year kid could be out there
17 doing that job if he's deemed capable, um, but here
18 he's not, right. So over there we cross state lines
19 it's okay to do that but over here it's not. That's
20 the only issue I have.

21
22 I mean I've had a lot of apprentices and I've had some
23 that they're about good for unloading and loading the
24 truck and that's about as far as it goes and that
25 could be even into their third year. But then there's



1 those guys that they grab the ball and they run with
2 it, and, you know, they're really good guys. They
3 have the capability, and I put them up against any
4 first year journeyman, second year journeyman. At
5 that point I don't necessarily see what the difference
6 is. Um, but just something to consider with, with
7 situations like that, you know, that we do have guys
8 out there that are capable, you know.

9

10 And I agree. It should be maybe left up to the
11 contractor or whatever and with -- you know, it's if
12 you got a problem, call me and, you know, I got a
13 question. Here, what do I do? But, um, I, I see the
14 other side of it too and can respect that, so.

15 Nielsen: All right. Thanks. Anybody else?

16 Gray: Just to comment on that.

17 Nielsen: Okay.

18 Gray: Maybe if there were provisions for a later period
19 journeyman to work on a, a percentage supervised or
20 supervised by a phone call, um, or maybe in the
21 licensing side where they're on some kind of a lesser
22 for a, um, residential like Washington would have to
23 where they could journey out as a residential guy
24 maybe sooner than a commercial guy.

25 Nielsen: Okay.

1 Gray: Yeah, so everybody's on the same page, that's a
2 service journeyman, um, is that two-year license.
3 Jesse Gray by the way. So you know, and it might be,
4 uh, something that Idaho adopts as well like
5 Washington is doing a -- having that service
6 journeyman guy out there that, you know, can do
7 garbage disposals and change out a toilet and faucets
8 and stuff, you know, things that are outside the wall
9 maybe that, you know, uh, are a lot easier to do than,
10 you know, some of the behind the wall stuff, so.

11 Nielsen: All right. Thanks.

12 Ward: Can I add one more thing to that?

13 Nielsen: You know you can.

14 Ward: Just, uh, to add. I mean it's brought up a good point
15 all the way around. But I mean there's, there's no
16 surprise that, you know, we're having a lot of trouble
17 just getting young people into the trades. I mean
18 when I went to apprentice school 20-some odd years
19 ago, you know, I used to have a journeyman that said
20 if you don't pop her into second gear today there's
21 somebody waiting to take your job, and it was a
22 reality, right. I mean it's something that you had to
23 keep in the back of your mind.

24

25 Now, um, you know, we're, we're really struggling out



1 there to find guys to come into the trades and girls.
2 It's just not -- you know, I mean I hired a kid a
3 couple summers ago that was fresh out of high school
4 and he had -- I said well didn't you guys talk to your
5 guidance counselor and stuff about this in school, and
6 they said yeah. She told me that if I didn't go to
7 college I'd never amount to anything. I wouldn't make
8 any money. I would essentially be a failure. And I
9 said did they ever talk about trade school and he said
10 I told them I was thinking of going to community
11 college and maybe a trade school, and she said that's
12 a horrible idea. You'll, you'll never make any money
13 and just basically be a failure.

14
15 So people -- it's a failure in our system that these
16 people are teaching our kids that the trades aren't a
17 good avenue to go when we all know and we're all
18 sitting here knowing that we've all been successful
19 doing what we've done here.

20
21 So, um, that's the other part I'm thinking, and just,
22 you know, if you have a capable individual that that
23 owner or whatever the company or their journeyman,
24 whoever, feels comfortable with them doing certain
25 tasks that, you know, that shouldn't necessarily be a



1 punishable offense especially when we're -- journeymen
2 are spread thin right now, you know. And I'm an owner
3 of a company, of a smaller company and, you know, I
4 have to daily I have to decide okay, you know, I'm --
5 I either got to go with that apprentice physically and
6 if it's my end of month or something where I'm trying
7 to get office stuff done, I may have to push him with
8 another one of my journeymen. And now I may be
9 running a crew of three that I really only needed a
10 crew of two for -- and it's just costing me a lot of
11 dollars out there to stay in compliance with that
12 rule, you know, when I maybe have an individual that
13 can handle, you know, replacing a disposal or
14 something where I don't -- I mean I'm not going to do
15 anything anyway. I'm going to stand there and -- to
16 stay in compliance with them and play by the rules.

17
18 But you know, it is, it is a frustrating part. So I
19 think that, you know, there's, there's a lot of sides
20 to the story and we can maybe come up with a good
21 agreement for that, so you know.

22 Nielsen: All right. And you know, as I mentioned earlier, the
23 perspective analysis --

24 Wideman: If I may real quick.

25 Nielsen: You bet.

1 Wideman: Uh, Brett Wideman. I'm with Local 44. I agree both
2 sides here. Um, obviously that apprentice wouldn't be
3 capable of, of going on his own without the prior
4 supervision. So that in my opinion is imperative, the
5 supervision piece. However, uh, I do recall at the
6 beginning of your statement you're, you're looking at
7 what other states do do.

8 Nielsen: And that's what --

9 Wideman: And, and Washington does give a variant for upper year
10 apprentices. Now that, that threshold is up for
11 debate, but it does give a variance on service type
12 work, uh, where they can be supervised remote via
13 phone, iPad, whatever it may be. So if you're looking
14 at, you know, maybe outside areas, there are other, uh
15 -- there is other language out there that speaks to
16 this. Uh, it does require the supervision; however,
17 at a certain point in time whether that's the
18 contractor or the state defining that time, uh, they
19 could be, you know, eligible via phone or whatnot. So
20 that would be, uh -- I'd agree with both sides, and
21 I'd, you know, offer up that language there to look
22 at, so.

23 Nielsen: Nope. Appreciate that. Thanks. And that's where I
24 was just about to go is yes we will be looking at
25 everybody around us and see what they do and again,

1 have to justify it to the powers to be why you go,
2 what, 20 miles if that to the border and it's a whole
3 different world.

4
5 So the next thing on the apprentices is an out-of-
6 state person can come into Idaho, show eight years of
7 acting as an apprentice, and is eligible to sit for
8 the journeyman exam. Idaho, we say you got to hold a
9 card or registration, do four years of school, and
10 then you can sit for the journeyman exam. Does
11 anybody here feel that an Idaho guy or gal should be
12 afforded the same route? I'm not going to say it's a
13 punishment or a negative, but you know, there are
14 people -- and we've all seen them in the trades --
15 book smart but they don't know the San-T from a combo
16 and then vice versa, you know.

17
18 So how do you guys feel? Would you like to see -- do
19 you like it the way it is? Would you like to see
20 maybe another route for these guys that don't want to
21 go to school and I'll say don't want because a lot of
22 them, you know, they look at two nights a week is
23 hardship when they're trying to raise a family, work,
24 you know, right now 10, 12 hours a day depending on
25 what's going on. So thoughts on that topic?

1 Krels: Joe Krels again. Um, so just to clarify, so to be
2 reciprocal from Washington to Idaho you have to show -
3 -

4 Nielsen: The four years of school --

5 Krels: Four years of school --

6 Nielsen: -- would equal 576 hours 'cause I know they got like,
7 what, eight 16 hours of CEUs in your --

8 Krels: Mm-Hmm.

9 Nielsen: And four years of OJT.

10 Krels: Yeah. So I guess what's the difference in what you're
11 trying to impose then?

12 Nielsen: The difference is in Idaho currently anybody in the
13 plumbing -- apprentices in the plumbing trade don't
14 have an option of going --

15 Krels: Working.

16 Nielsen: -- you know, even if they're registered, going eight
17 years and being able to sit for the exam. We're still
18 asking for four years of school. So Washington guy
19 can get his license the current way with the CEUs,
20 test. We won't reciprocate with him, but he can work
21 eight years over there and then come over here and sit
22 for the exam.

23 Krels: But in order to work over there for eight years he had
24 to pass an exam and get 8,000 hours. Is that what
25 you're saying? He has to have 8,000 hours of work

1 training?

2 Nielsen: The difference with Washington is the schooling.

3 That's, you know, outside the union, you know, because
4 they only have to show I believe it's 16 hours of CEUs
5 a year for four years and they can sit for the
6 journeyman exam.

7 Krels: But if they have to show those CEUs, they have to have
8 schooling hours. You have to either be in a
9 registered program or have continuing ed through
10 Washington to get it.

11 Nielsen: Yes. But we don't accept their --

12 Krels: A journeyman card.

13 Nielsen: -- CEUs.

14 Krels: Okay.

15 Nielsen: That's why I'm saying. If you want to a union -- you
16 guys have taken probably 144 plus hours a year --

17 Krels: 216 minimum.

18 Nielsen: -- schooling. Correct. But if they're not in the
19 union schools, they're just doing CEUs, we will not
20 reciprocate with those --

21 Krels: Oh, okay.

22 Nielsen: -- 'cause they don't meet Idaho's minimum requirements

23 --

24 Krels: Oh, okay.

25 Nielsen: -- of 576 hours.

1 Krels: I got you. Okay.

2 Ward: So again, um, kind of touching on that same thing, so
3 if you have -- you know, you had mentioned that, you
4 know, essentially coming over and challenging a test
5 and things like that, um, if, if they can document
6 their hours.

7
8 Um, I know just adding to this -- this has been
9 brought up and kind of talked about in the field is
10 that, you know, if someone comes over from Washington
11 and has prior experience, um, you know, the question
12 has been raised and asked about there is, is that
13 individual -- you know, if they can prove themselves
14 and challenge the test and pass the test, you know,
15 are they good, right? And you say there's people that
16 are book smart. There's people that are field smart,
17 right. So maybe, you know, hours aside and things
18 like that, if they were -- how would we work that out
19 to challenge the test if that individual had to have
20 so many hours for Idaho to say yes you worked over
21 here. We'll allow you to challenge the test.

22
23 Um, I think that to add a little bit to that is some
24 kind of a potential competency test where that would
25 help eliminate some of the book smart guys in a way is

1 you take a test and then, you know, an inspector has
2 to come out and inspect however many series of work
3 that you do, you know, just like we had to do with our
4 journeyman test. When I tested out I had to, I had to
5 plumb a house. And I don't know if it's still that
6 way or if it's just a bathroom group anymore.

7

8 Um, but, you know, maybe it's -- you know, if we are
9 going to allow somebody to do that with potentially
10 the correct amount of hours of making sure that
11 they're not just good at taking a test, that they're
12 in turn good at, at their craft too.

13 Nielsen: So then I'm going to bring it back though. Should --
14 because we do have a practical, even the out-of-state
15 guys, if they pass the exam, they take the practical.
16 Should it be the government's responsibility again to
17 make sure okay he passed the competency. As far as
18 we're concerned, here's your journeyman's card. You
19 passed the written exam. Shouldn't it be left up to
20 industry to weed out the ones that can't plumb?

21 Ward: Right, I understand.

22 Nielsen: Because I mean --

23 Ward: Sure.

24 Nielsen: -- you know, we got labs now and they dry fit the
25 stuff and we go look and it's like yeah okay. And

1 even if they don't do it right the first time, usually
2 by the second time they get it, you know. And I know
3 the way we're doing now -- because there still is the
4 option to go out and do it in the field, but most guys
5 aren't going to turn their fourth year loose on a
6 house when you're trying to get, you know, three or
7 four done a week and you got one guy out there to
8 rough-in a, you know, two bath house.

9 Ward: Mm-Hmm.

10 Nielsen: So you know, we kind of need to take that into
11 consideration --

12 Ward: Sure.

13 Nielsen: -- that there is a practical -- and I'll just roll
14 right into that because that was a topic. Do you
15 think the practical is valuable?

16 Ward: Um, I'm, I'm not that overly familiar how they do it
17 now. You're saying with the lab.

18 Nielsen: So is it NIC --

19 Frost: NIC has a lab.

20 Nielsen: -- has a lab.

21 Frost: It's about an eight-by-eight or eight-by-ten platform
22 with a wall on it that's too small to put any amount
23 of fixture amount it at the required distances from
24 each other and they just dry fit either it be an
25 (inaudible - 00:45:29) pipe on it.

1 Ward: Mm-Hmm. Okay. So I think it's gotten a little more
2 lax since I --
3 Frost: If you do it there.
4 Ward: Yeah.
5 Nielsen: Yes.
6 Ward: Yeah. So and I went through NIC as well, um, but, but
7 the requirements at the time were we had to plumb a
8 home and that was inspected and we were required to do
9 all of that work. Um --
10 Nielsen: And then I'd go at it at the cost-to-benefit analysis.
11 Does it really -- because I don't know about NIC, some
12 charge up to 150 bucks I've heard.
13 Krels: NIC is like 195.
14 Nielsen: So is it --
15 Ward: Oh wow.
16 Nielsen: -- the cost-to-benefit --
17 Ward: Sure.
18 Nielsen: -- somebody spending that money would, you know, four
19 days before they pass their written to bring them in,
20 pay that money just so we can go see if they can dry
21 fit, you know, basically plumb it --
22 Ward: Right.
23 Nielsen: -- to code. You know, does that benefit really -- is
24 it worth it?
25 Ward: Right. And I, I see that, I see that point. I mean I

1 went to a apprentice school with an individual who
2 did, um, kind of like modular homes and he turned out
3 as a journeyman, took his test, passed, everything,
4 but he had never done a groundwork in his life because
5 his whole job was -- he hadn't even completed a whole
6 job because he piped over and someone else took it
7 from there once the unit was delivered, you know.

8
9 So, um, I, I agree with you. I don't necessarily
10 think that you even have to stack it up with a bunch
11 of government rules in terms of doing the testing
12 necessarily, but at the same time I think that the
13 industry will weed those individuals out, um, for the
14 business owners or the unions in that regard. I mean
15 it is frustrating because someone presents themselves
16 on paper or in person as a journeyman and so you're
17 confident that their abilities are such and maybe you
18 kind of have to weed those guys out and find out that
19 maybe they're certified but not qualified, you know.

20 Nielsen: So on the spot, yes or no as far as a practical goes?

21 Ward: I, I believe, I believe that's -- that should be
22 required, a practical. Yep.

23 Nielsen: Anybody else? Thanks.

24 Ward: Mm-Hmm.

25 Nielsen: All right. Um, one more topic on apprentice. There's

1 been some discussion on whether or not the actual --
2 should an apprentice actually be registered? Not get
3 rid of the program but what value life safety or
4 otherwise does that card that we issue them at 50
5 bucks for five years provide the consumer or you guys?
6 Any thoughts on that one? And again, it's not -- they
7 would still have to show four years of school, four
8 years of OJT. We just wouldn't issue a card to them.

9
10 And before we get going, some of the, the pros to it
11 that I've heard is, you know, we get -- you know, they
12 call me up. Well I just wanted to test drive this
13 guy. He was out on the job. You know, I didn't want
14 to spend the money so now I'm getting a civil penalty
15 'cause he's unregistered. It would eliminate that.

16
17 Um, you know, discussion in all of these meetings has
18 been getting people into the trades, you know. I've
19 heard complaints that, you know, I get them registered
20 and then, you know, two weeks into it they're gone,
21 you know. If a guy wants to be in here, again you
22 could introduce him to the trade -- and again, 50
23 bucks, you know, that's not going to break anybody.
24 But, um, so any thoughts on that? And again, it's
25 just up for discussion.

1 Gray: Yeah. Jesse Gray, 44. Um, I think having some skin
2 in the game is a big part of it. You know, 50 bucks
3 is not like -- maybe to a young kid it could be, but
4 again, putting a little bit of money on what you want
5 to do. And as far as, um, you know, say as somebody
6 had mentioned having a grandkid out or kids out, well
7 that's cool. You know, you want to show them what you
8 do and see if they're interested, but problem is some
9 guys might take advantage of that and you might have
10 the whole family out there taking -- you know, the
11 whole -- all 10 or 15 grandkids and now they're
12 plumbing a bunch of houses. So I think that's -- I
13 think it needs to stay in place.

14
15 Um, uh, when I came through it was five bucks for a
16 one year, you know, an annual. Um, you know, I don't
17 see the benefit to having five years to one year maybe
18 other than, uh, not forgetting to pay it, you know, or
19 something like that. They're covered for their
20 apprenticeship essentially if they finish all their
21 schooling and stuff on time. But I would say either
22 way it could go one year or, or five years, but it
23 still needs to stay in place I think.

24 Nielsen: All right. Thanks.

25 Gray: Thanks.

1 Nielsen: Anybody else?

2 Wideman: Brett Wideman, Local 44. Um, I, I do also believe,
3 uh, giving that apprentice a registration number is,
4 is valuable. Uh, it gives some meaning to it for one
5 thing. You know, four or five-year programs are
6 tough, you know, two times a week, whatever. It gives
7 a little meaning to it.

8
9 Um, I personally like the five-year. Uh, for one, I
10 mean that's your avenue. You're trying people out.
11 You're trying to find somebody who may work. You
12 don't want to discredit the ones who are going to
13 work, right. And they -- the way it reads right now
14 is their hours are accredited if they're registered,
15 correct? So we don't want to strip that away. I mean
16 we're trying to build the future of this industry as
17 well and that's how those apprentices are -- you know,
18 whatever, they gave those hours, right, to test. So
19 my opinion we don't want to strip that.

20
21 I do like the five-year because what we see in
22 Washington it's a one-year renewal and, uh, you know,
23 as much as everyone tries to stay on top of that
24 renewal to be eligible for work it slips through or
25 maybe a check got lost in the mail. Something

1 happens. Well then that student is now punished for -
2 - you know, maybe they don't catch it for three
3 months. That's -- you know, those are hours lost
4 toward that license.

5
6 So I, I like the idea of just covering, you know, your
7 backside throughout your, your program. If it's 50
8 bucks, it's 50 bucks. I don't know, you know, if the
9 owner covers that cost, I don't know how that works.
10 But, um, there's always ways to recoup that cost if
11 it's the 50 bucks that, you know, is a make or break
12 here. That's my opinion. They need a registration
13 number. It helps not only the state but individual
14 companies track what their labor shortages may or may
15 not be for future work too. It gives you a physical
16 number to look at. So I'm in favor of them.

17 Nielsen: All right. Great. So I know Brett likes the five-
18 year, but I would throw out does anybody -- and I know
19 somebody way in the back may like to see more of a one
20 year. And for the -- you know, a one year to give in
21 more detailed account on actually how many people are
22 in the trades because currently we got a five-year
23 registration. They may have done it for a month and
24 headed to North Dakota to drive trucks. They're on
25 the books for the next, you know, four years and 11



1 months as being a registered Idaho apprentice.

2

3 And the other -- I mean I'm not going to -- I'm not
4 arguing it but part of all of this consolidation
5 within DOPL is to try and get the big threes some
6 people angrily call us, you know, plumbing, electrical
7 and mechanical, kind of along the same lines. Line us
8 up as far as right now HVAC and electrical have a one
9 year registration. We're still on five. Again, you
10 know, and then I would ask for conven- -- are we doing
11 it five years for convenience sake for the person, you
12 know, so they don't have to think about it for five
13 years or, you know, should a guy be responsible enough
14 if he's out there plumbing to know, hey, in 12 months
15 I need to make sure I go register, pay my 10 bucks
16 'cause realistically if we went to a one year
17 registration again we'd probably take and divide it by
18 five so it would be 10 bucks a year. Any thoughts
19 along those lines? Are you coming up, Jason?

20 Hudson: Coming up. Trying to talk at these things as little
21 as possible but an idea occurred to me -- Jason
22 Hudson, Idaho AFLCIO -- that might get at, um, Brett's
23 concerns about not, uh -- people not losing hours but
24 also get at the going to the one year aligned with
25 HVAC, aligned with electrical, um, also get that, that

1 barrier down so it's just that 10 bucks for the person
2 that wants to, you know, test drive it for a month and
3 might wash out. It gets a little bit tighter data
4 set, um, but not risk losing hours.

5
6 Would there be a way to do it hopefully without it
7 being too complicated where you could go to a one year
8 system but institute a three-month grace period. So
9 somebody realizes two months after their one year card
10 expires, they reregister. They've got three months of
11 grace to be able to count those hours. If they don't
12 get around to it for a full year, you know, maybe
13 you're out of luck. But some sort of grace period so
14 that somebody if they don't have the check by that day
15 they're not losing those hours, um, but it also could
16 reap some of the advantages of moving to the one year,
17 \$10 a year system.

18 Nielsen: No, I appreciate it and that's what we're here for is
19 to come up with some ideas because usually it's this
20 or that. And appreciate you coming up with some other
21 ideas there. Anyone else?

22
23 All right. We discussed practicals, so I won't hit
24 that. Currently when you finish school you have six
25 months to take the -- and apply -- you have six months

1 to pass the exam. Do you feel that six months is a
2 legitimate amount of time to have somebody come in and
3 test and pass? Because if they don't at the end of
4 them six months, rule requires they go back to fourth
5 year. And so does anybody have the opinions?

6
7 I could give you my opinion on it which to me it seems
8 a little, again, if we're trying to keep people in the
9 trades, a little counterintuitive that okay six
10 months. Now go back to fourth year. So would anybody
11 -- you know, does -- do you like it six months? Would
12 you like to see it extended? I mean there doesn't
13 even have to be a time limit. Honestly, you've got 75
14 bucks and you want to keep taking the test. Should we
15 regulate them not doing it? All right. I'll take
16 that as another one that I get to kind of ponder with
17 and maybe kick out there and not have too much
18 heartache.

19
20 And another topic that came up along those lines at
21 the last meeting up at Sandpoint was currently when
22 your license expires you have 12 months. Plumbing is
23 two years. I take that back. You have 24 months. So
24 24 months. One day you call me up and say I didn't
25 realize my card expired. Why do I got to take the

1 exam again? Do you guys feel that if you go past that
2 time you should have to take the exam again or once
3 you've shown competency that, you know, should DOPL be
4 -- the board, anybody, you know, making you take the
5 journeyman exam again or the contractor's exam?

6 Gray: I can tell you from experience -- Jesse Gray -- uh,
7 you could put any number on that financially and a
8 journeyman is going to pay it versus taking that test
9 again. That's all I have to say about that. I, I --

10 Nielsen: No, that --

11 Gray: You know, honestly I get that call a lot. Hey, I let
12 my license lapse. Either I got to sit for this test.
13 Is there any way I could just pay for it?

14 Nielsen: And I -- you know, through the years I have heard
15 that. Can't I just scratch a check for 200 bucks? I
16 know the license for three years is 75 but I'll
17 scratch you whatever so I don't have to test. Is that
18 a viable option do you guys feel?

19 Krels: Uh, Joe Krels again. Um, would there be maybe an
20 option for a recertification test that maybe wasn't
21 the same just to make sure their competency was there?
22 If you've been out of the game for over two years,
23 maybe you're a little rusty. Maybe the code has
24 changed. Maybe there's some things that maybe would
25 maybe force a person to get back in their codebook and

1 look at some things and maybe a recertification test
2 that was maybe less amount of money or fewer
3 questions, maybe not the practical, maybe a general
4 knowledge on the code itself.

5 Nielsen: Would you be good with -- because currently no matter
6 what you do if you put your contractor's inactive or
7 anything, to activate it you have to show CEUs. So
8 say you went five years. Would you be okay with they
9 have to make up five years of CEUs and pay --

10 Krels: That would be, that would be fine. I, I think that
11 some training would probably need to be revisited or
12 make sure that as long as there's an avenue or a, a
13 checklist to say that, hey, I still know my code. I'm
14 not just going to get my contractor's license and go
15 cost the homeowner undue money that he doesn't need to
16 spend because I had to do a job three times or
17 whatever, so.

18 Nielsen: Okay. Anybody else for or against, some other ideas?
19 All right. I'll go to the next one. About six or
20 seven years ago the board kicked around creating a
21 master plumber's license and basically what it is --
22 'cause right now as contractors that license is ours.
23 It's our name. We just associate with whatever
24 company, you know, our company, somebody else's. What
25 a master's would do would be just like electrical.

1 Anybody could come in and take the business side.
2 They wouldn't have to be a tradesman. But they would
3 have to have a tradesman, a master plumber, you know,
4 to be out there in the field and supervising the
5 journeymen and apprentices.

6
7 Does anybody feel one way or the other on this?
8 Because currently in plumbing we wrote a statute --
9 'cause if you pass away, I pass away and if I was
10 running a business and say my wife was doing all the
11 paperwork and everything, she's out as far as plumbing
12 goes until she finds somebody else to attach their
13 license to said company. If she had the business --
14 she's still got to do it, but she could still be the
15 business owner.

16
17 And but what I was getting at too is in plumbing we
18 wrote a statute that says currently if a contractor
19 dies or becomes incapacitated, a journeyman could come
20 in and we'll give him a 90-day license to help get
21 whoever through the current permits, you know. Maybe
22 he's going to go test, get his license and associate
23 it with that company and they can redo -- renew it
24 once, so they could get 180 days. They cannot bid on
25 work and they cannot pull new permits. Is that good

1 enough and don't mess with, you know, talk about
2 master plumbers and business licenses?

3 Male 2: So the master plumber's license would be held by the
4 business.

5 Nielsen: No. The master plumber would be held by you, the
6 tradesman. 'Cause I'll give you what some of the arg-
7 -- you know, some of the arguments are as like well
8 some big corporation is going to come in, test and get
9 the business license and put us all out of business.
10 Realistically they could anyway if you attached your
11 contractor's license to that -- you know, we call it
12 renting a license but you're really not renting it.
13 You're getting paid to -- but you're allowing them to
14 pull permits under your license. This would just be,
15 you know -- and again, 30,000-foot.

16
17 I'd have to delve into how electrical has got it, you
18 know, how it applies if you get sued. You know, do
19 they sue the business which probably they would
20 because the master is not attached to the business.
21 He's just a trade side of it. So any thoughts on
22 that?

23 Male 2: And currently there's no restrictions on businesses
24 renting a guy's license essentially. Is that what
25 you're saying?

1 Nielsen: We've kicked it around, you know, 100 different ways
2 and it's your license. Who you allow to pull a permit
3 under it we can't stop. The only thing we can do is
4 if you got your apprentice buddy out there doing the
5 work and we catch him, he's acting as a contractor or
6 unsupervised if you back him up and say no he's
7 working for me.

8 Male 2: I see a lot of liability in doing that.

9 Nielsen: I --

10 Male 2: It all falls under your name. It all falls under your
11 license.

12 Nielsen: And that's -- you know, and I don't know the civil,
13 the civil side of it all, but yeah as far as DBS --
14 DOPL's concerned that's your license. We're sending
15 you the civil penalties or whatever comes along with
16 it, and those are your permits. Something to ponder
17 again, you know. Everybody's kicking it around --
18 well HVAC and plumbing is kicking it around. Um,
19 electrical is doing it currently. And they get the
20 same things going on it. It probably wouldn't stop,
21 you know, who that business -- and that's where I'd
22 have to figure out 'cause I believe the master's what
23 allows for that business to pull the permit because
24 they got like signing journeymen and stuff. So
25 there's a lot of details to that.

1

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One more on the contractor's license. So currently whether you're Idaho or out of state, you have to test, get your journeyman's license, hold it for two and a half years. If you come from out of state and you didn't meet the requirements, you have to show four additional years. And then you can test for contractors.

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Male 2: And they will not seek them out.

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Nielsen: They will if you get -- make the right call and you're willing to eat some months 'cause they'll take it, you know, up to -- you may lose a few months moving your

1 journeyman up. But you know, in an effort to make
2 your life easier -- I mean I'd say reduce cost but
3 it's like 7.50 a year for your journeyman's license,
4 so but you would be saving, what, 23 bucks or
5 something, so.

6 Male 3: (Inaudible - 01:06:52) would be nice 'cause it when we
7 added in the continuing ed that, you know, I've got to
8 do one. Then I got to do more and they're offset
9 years. So it makes it hard.

10 Nielsen: So would you rather see syncing the dates or not
11 having to maintain your journeyman once you got your
12 contractor's? I haven't yet come across a plumber
13 that wanted apprentice journeyman because, you know, I
14 went through my apprenticeship on my card. Pretty
15 much the same thing.

16 Male 3: I guess it would be -- if you're maintaining your
17 contractor's license, your test has already been --
18 it's already been documented that they know you're
19 already a journeyman, so it's, it's a little redundant
20 I guess in a way.

21 Nielsen: All right. 'Cause to me I think it makes sense just
22 not even from a regulatory side. It's just like
23 what's the purpose of it?

24 Male 3: You got to be a journeyman to test. You're going to
25 (inaudible - 01:07:54), so.

1 Nielsen: And one other topic that I got that deals with
2 contractors is currently we have a \$2,000 bond
3 requirement and what that bond is is a compliance
4 bond. So in an effort to, you know, reduce barriers,
5 make your lives easier, reduce some costs on your
6 side. Do you feel that that bond is essential to
7 maintain your contractor's license with DOPL? You
8 know, that we're the only ones requiring it, and I'm
9 sure that, you know, the legality of it out there in
10 the field and stuff you've got insurance to cover
11 everything, workman's comp, the whole nine yards. Do
12 you feel that it's necessary to have a \$2,000
13 compliance bond?

14
15 And the only other thing I would add to that is being
16 a compliance bond you could go in, destroy the house,
17 take \$30,000 from grandma, hit the road, and as long
18 as you moved that toilet over two feet and you did it
19 per code, nobody can go after your bond. It's just a
20 sad reality of it.

21 Male 3: So if you performed work correctly, at that point
22 nothing's attached to you as far as --

23 Nielsen: As far as that bond.

24 Male 3: So the bond can only be collected on if there's
25 negligence.

1 Nielsen: Not negligence, just not per code.

2 Male 3: Seems like (inaudible - 01:09:40) today's world.

3 Nielsen: Well the only time -- I've been program manager for 11
4 years now. I saw one time the bond was, uh, went
5 after and it took like two weeks. It was a different
6 HVAC program manager but he was doing all the legwork.
7 And it was a \$20,000 residential boiler system. And
8 at the end -- I don't know how much it cost us for,
9 you know, his time and stuff, but they scratched the
10 \$2,000 check to that homeowner and then they got to
11 figure out the other 18,000. So there's about three
12 of them now that I'm going to play with and see where
13 it goes. And does anybody have any other ideas?

14

15 I know electrical requires that they show a certain
16 amount of liability insurance or, you know, some type
17 of insurance, 300,000 or something. Would that make
18 more sense? Probably something you already carry, you
19 know, if not exceed, but you'd just have to show DOPL
20 that you do have it. All right. I've wore you guys
21 out already. So that's pretty much it. Does anybody
22 have any other questions, you know, pertaining to the
23 rules?

24 Male 4: Has there been any more discussion on, uh, the
25 softener loop today?

1 Nielsen: Yesterday there was up in Sandpoint and they would
2 like to see it go away.

3 Male 4: Well I know that -- correct me if I'm wrong, but you
4 know, I mean I -- the reason I heard through -- the
5 institution of that was that, you know, there --
6 Southern Idaho has a lot of hard water. Well you
7 know, the further north you go there's some naturally
8 soft water that comes out of the reason where there's
9 no reason for it to be softened.

10

11 Um, I, I mean I'm kind of indifferent about it. We've
12 been doing it for so many years now that we're just
13 kind of used to it. I know that they've relaxed those
14 requirements somewhat. If you can retrofit it
15 afterwards, which I think was a good move. Um, but
16 just if there's been any more discussion on that, you
17 know, as to whether or not we're going to keep that or
18 whether we're going to remove that and maybe what the
19 -- if you could maybe tell me what the reasoning in
20 general was with it the first place.

21 Nielsen: I believe the reasoning in general was to prevent the
22 softener only companies from coming in and repiping
23 under the house.

24 Male 4: Okay.

25 Nielsen: You know, whether we have that rule or not, that

1 doesn't give them the right to come in and plumb
2 underneath. So you know, the question to you would be
3 again cost benefit, life safety, you know, because
4 when certain entities wanted to get out of their like
5 six, seven years ago, you know, they were saying it
6 was putting the cost of housing over the top putting
7 that loop in when everybody knows it's plumbing, with
8 labor, you know, couple hundred bucks depending on how
9 things are.

10
11 So you know, as we look at it and we go through these
12 rules here we have to justify is putting a loop at the
13 time of rough-in a life safety issue and does it
14 really benefit cost wise industry and the consumer
15 and, you know, the big, uh, what's going on in today's
16 industry, the cost of houses. You know, I mean
17 realistically somebody could argue that's just an
18 added cost that, you know, should be left up to the
19 homeowner afterwards if they want a softener or not.

20 Male 4: Yeah. I, I do agree with that though. Even when they
21 come in after we go the loop, I've seen some of these
22 guys come in and there's some doozies, you know. Uh,
23 you know, with the softener guys for sure.

24 Nielsen: We'll be looking into it. Anything else? All right.
25 If not, I appreciate you guys coming. Again, email me

1 with any thoughts, you know, concerns, anything like
2 that. When it comes to this we got time so don't
3 think you have to figure it all out in a week 'cause I
4 know I won't be able to. And again, thanks for
5 coming.

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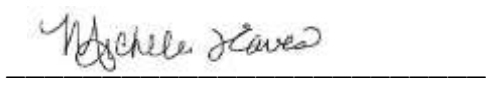
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